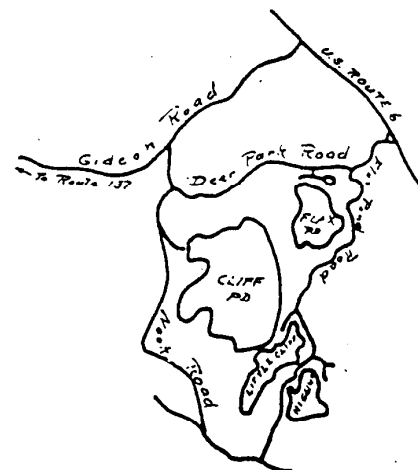


FLAX POND

Brewster

Area = 48 Acres



NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES

NICKERSON STATE PARK

FLAX POND (Brewster)

General Information:

This 48-acre natural kettlehole pond has a maximum depth of 75 feet and an average depth of 36 feet. The shoreline is undeveloped, being protected within the confines of Nickerson State Park (see park map). Transparency is excellent, aquatic vegetation is scant and the bottom is composed primarily of sand.

Nickerson State Park is located just south of Route 6A near the Orleans line. It can be reached via Route 6A, or by taking Route 6, Exit 12, and rejoining Route 6A west. Once in the park, Flax Pond can be reached by taking a left onto Flax Pond Road. Primary fishing access is over the beach area. Car top boats and canoes can be launched after a short carry down a steep slope. Campers, swimmers and canoers heavily use the pond and the area around it during the summer months.

Flax Pond has a long management history beginning with the stocking of small mouth bass in 1918. A 1948 survey found brown trout fingerlings, indicating that some natural reproduction (probably over spring holes) was occurring in the pond. It was reclaimed in 1954, but had to be reclaimed again in 1960 as a result of the illegal stocking of brown bullheads by "a die-hard bullhead fisherman." During that reclamation, brown bullheads accounted for 90% of the weight of the fish removed! The pond was reclaimed again in 1967 and 1969. Due to increasing levels of acidity, the pond was treated with limestone in 1979. In 1980, adult smallmouth bass were stocked.

Fish Populations:

A fisheries survey conducted in 1982 found four species present: smallmouth bass, brown bullhead, golden shiner and banded killifish. Stocked trout were also sampled at that time.

Fishing:

This pond is primarily a trout fishery and is annually stocked, both spring and fall, with brook, brown and rainbow trout. It is deep and cold enough to carry trout through the year and regularly produces some good holdovers, especially browns. These fish are often feed in relatively shallow water during the spring and fall and can be taken with fly rod or spinning gear from almost anywhere on the shoreline. During mid-summer, a boat or canoe may be necessary to reach them at depths of 25 to 36 feet.

Although trout are the primary focus here, anglers — particularly those fishing with live baits — can also expect some smallmouth bass. Tapping or jigging a grass shrimp along the bottom (with a split shot about 18 inches above the hook) is effective on both trout and bass. Anglers should remove any warm water fish — especially pumpkinseeds and bullheads — that they catch from the pond.

March 1993